

DRAGAZINE

Exclusive Interview

April '91

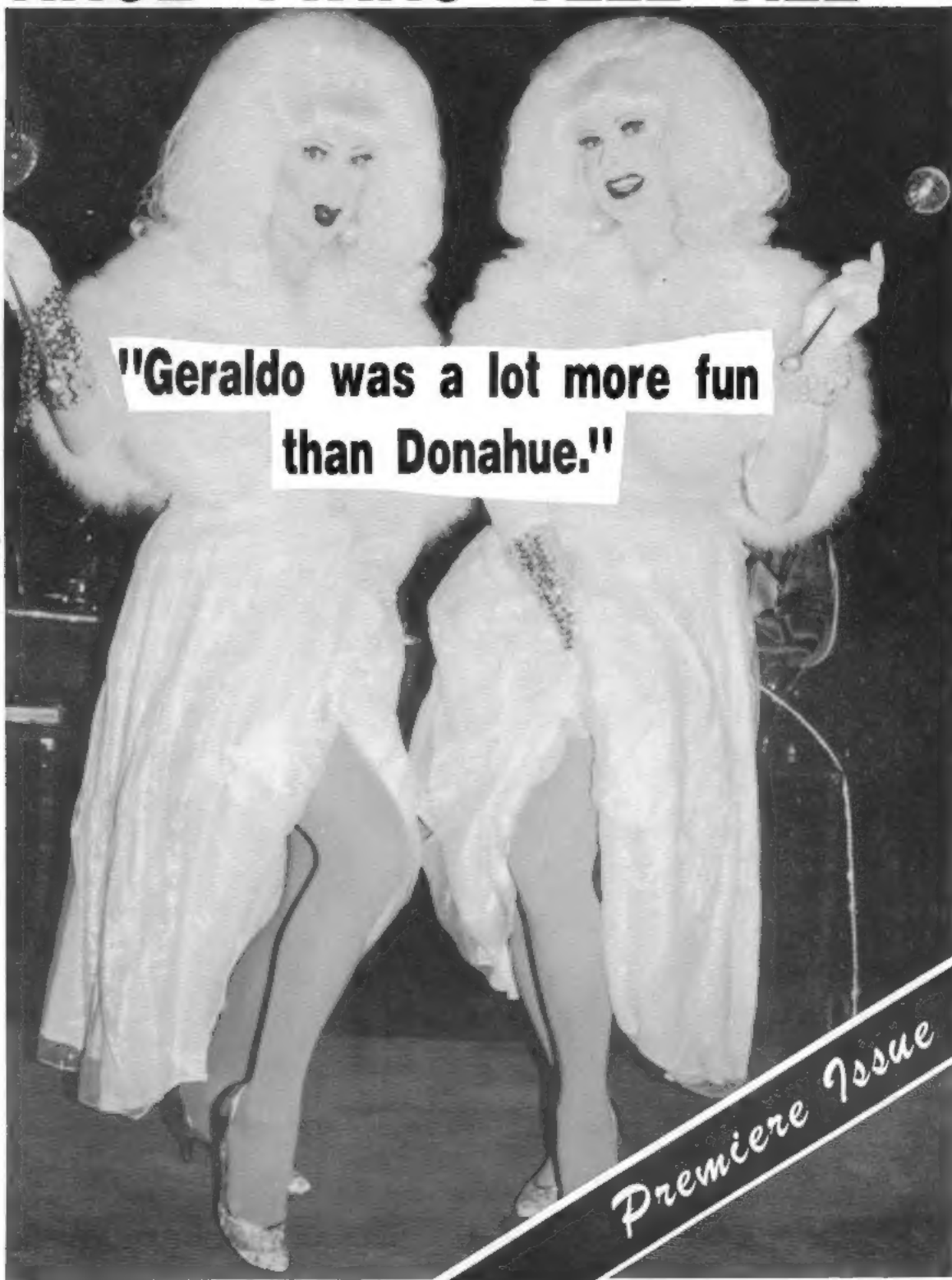
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THE MONROE TWINS TELL ALL

*About
Videotaped
Encounters:*

*Beauty Secrets
Of The
Terrific Twosome*

**CONFESSIONS
OF A
DRAG QUEEN**



"Geraldo was a lot more fun
than Donahue."

Premiere Issue

Double, Double, make mine a double! This damn base won't hide my stubble! Cocktail dress that barely fits and birdseed in my bra for tits. Makeup spirits in a quarrel-Smokey, Tawney, Tan and Coral, Jungle Red and Tangerine, High-Heeled pumps' black patent sheen. Makeup running in my eyes and runs from toes to gartered thighs, why must there be so much trouble . . . just to look like Betty Rubble? If you're a drag enthusiast or just curious (and who isn't one or the other?), Dragazine invites you to discuss, share, show off, advise, network, advertise or just plain live vicariously. Dragazine is for everyone, from those of use who are into 'recreational transvestism,' to others all the way to the outer edges of the Gender Bell Curve. It's A Whole 'Nother World!

THE NAME GAME

Here are just a few of the names we've heard - some are original, some are not. What would these characters look like to you? Imagine a lovely Ann Tasid in pepto bismol pink chiffon . . . or Penny Sillin in grey-green velvet. Have a look and a laugh. Who knows - you may even find an idea for next Halloween!

Amanda B. Reckonwith
Ann Droginy
Ann S. Thesia
Ann Tagonist
Ann Tasif
Ann Tenna
Anna Rexia
Auntie Biotic
Barb Wire
Cora Door
Dee Claire
Dee Flower
Dee Claw
Dee Lude
Dee Muir
Eileen Backwards
Ella Mentary
Ella Vator
Emma Nemms
Eva Destruction

Faye Muss
Faye Tull
Fran Tick
Kay Mart
Lois Lane
Mary Worthless
May B. Maybenot
Melba Toast
Nova China
Olive Pitts
Patty Cakes
Patty Melt
Patty O'Furniture
Penny Arcade
Penny Sillin
Penny Loafer
Polly Esther
Rose Bowl
Ruth Less
Sara Moany

Mardi Gras

En Espanol:

Kay Faya
Kay Bruja
Kay Linda
Kay Hombre
Kay Cosa
Kay Rica
Sue S. Poso
Sue Pesadilla
Monty Killa
Esta Cosa
Esta Loca

Wanna play the name game? Send yours to
Dragazine, P.O. Box 3651, Hollywood, CA 90078.



Publisher Sue Casa and her main squeeze, Halloween 1990.



DRAGAZINE

Dedicated to Rue Starr III

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DRAG FOR DOLLARS

By Millie Van Willie

Luckily for us, we're based in Hollywood, a veritable drag smorgasbord. Everything from bawdy bearded slapshtick comedy revues, to glamorous beauties with bugle beaded bazooms. The hottest on the Los Angeles drag entertainment scene is the shocking and sensational underground club network, where you'll find really cool industrial dance music, and performers like the outrageous, multi-talented, multi-sexual Karen Dior. Perhaps you saw (and actually read) The Advocate **POLITICS OF DRAG** cover story featuring the funny and fabulous Gender and shock-you-til-you-drop Vaginal Cream Davis (who will wag her impressive strap-on appliance in your face). If you catch up with this marvelous clutch of politically correct drag queens, wear your Nancy Sinatra boots and a Queer Nation

tee shirt. If you're just passing through L.A., don't miss Monday night at Peanuts, at 7960 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood. The place is packed with drag queens of all shapes, sizes and colors, and many male admirers. The show is at 12:30 and stars the most popular performers from other drag clubs around town which are usually dark on Monday night. You'll catch club superstars Jaqueline, Angela Shelby, Carmela (all Plaza alumni) and Anais (of Queen Mary on Ventura Blvd). In fact, this is where many of the performers like to hang out on their night off. Call 213-654-0280 for a recorded announcement of shows. This column wouldn't be complete without mentioning hilarious, rubber-faced John Epperson a/k/a Lypsinka, who--with buddy Madonna's material help--has put together a ribsplitting show. Catch it!



DQ CONFIDENTIAL

When I was seventeen, and brand new to the drag scene, I wasn't aware that there were companies that made larger shoes. Being a tall girl meant you had big feet, and mine were (and are) pleasure yachts. I borrowed by cousin Stephanie's shoes (size 10) without her knowing it and proceeded to 'make' them fit me.

I had to take a pair of industrial strength shears to remove the leather uppers and transform them into straps. I then took the straps and tried to attached them to the soles with a staple gun. This was successful for about twenty minutes, until the straps began to break off and the staples came out. I decided it was necessary to carry the staple gun with me when I went to the bar just in case the shoes should begin to fall apart.

Most queens carried blush, lipstick and mirrors in their purses, I carried the Arrow special #151. Whenever the straps felt like they were coming loose, I took a trip to the restroom to fix them. Luckily, this only happened about three times.

On the way home from the bar, something unbelievable happened. Since I lived only a few blocks from the bar, I walked home in full tilt not realizing just how tough my neighborhood was. I noticed two guys



following me and their pace was quickening.

I hastened my stride to avoid conflict, but they were gaining on me. I felt one of them reach out at me and try to grab my blouse, so on instinct, I swung around and decked him with my only form of defense, my purse (complete with staple gun).

The blow must have been more than either of us had expected, because he immediately fell to the ground unconscious. The other would-be attacker fled when he saw his partner go down like a sack of old potatoes. The rush of adrenalin made me laugh with victory and self righteous glory, but as soon as it wore off, I ran the rest of way home, losing my shoes on the way. When I got inside, I laughed so hard, I cried, not only because of the incident, but also because I had ruined a brand new pair of nylons and lost my shoes.

I didn't carry the staple gun after that, mostly because I found shoes that fit, but I replaced its mugger stopping abilities with a can of mace. It's not as heavy, but just as effective.

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IS YOUR MAKEUP PRIMER?

If you found the perfect shade of pink-aboo lipstick for Halloween 1989, the bad news is that you absolutely shouldn't use it next October. The good news is that you get to hit the ground floor at Robinson's, Bloomie's or Sears again! While powder eye shadow and lip- and eye-liner pencils are good for about two years, lipstick, compacts and other cream based products are good for only one year, according to the Los Angeles Times. Wand-type mascara is very prone to bacterial growth and is good for three weeks to three months, depending upon the expert you consult. One of the best ways to keep makeup bacteria-free is to use washable brushes instead of bacteria-carrying puffs and sponges, says Pablo Manzoni of La Prairie skin care. Ready, set, go shopping! (Just punish those sales ladies, honey!)



Michaela's first time out.



Our "all-around" office person, Helena Handbag, airs an opinion.



Bea Flat, our Media Notes Reporter



Don't tell mama. Josephine Baker's adopted son, Jean Claude, owner of Chez Josephine.



The Girl Can't Help It



Photo: Interview Magazine



The very lovely, very hungry, Tushie Tucks, circa 1974. She's had a few meals since then.



Untamed Youth



Woof! Woof! John Cleese!

THE MONROE TWINS

On Geraldo, Pet Peeves and Beauty Secrets!

On their act

We're constantly amazed that so many people still seemed shocked by the idea of twin brothers doing a drag act. So many people who saw us on Donahue or Geraldo got a taste of what we do, singing standards like For Once In My Life and Side By Side in two part harmony. Lately we've grown more comfortable with comedy - one liners and funny stories. The mainstream clubs are our best audiences, and they are predominantly straight.

On their names

The simplest thing for us is to use Billie and Johnnie - our real first names. We're listed with AFTRA as Billie and Johnnie Monroe.

On costumes

We try to be as outlandish as we can. Of course, we've paid up to hundreds of dollars for custom gowns. But if a designer thinks he or she is going to be famous and prices go through the roof, they don't get our business again. Lots of our clothes are off the rack. We're a size 10-12 in women's dresses (size 36 men's jacket). If one of us goes shopping and sees something wonderful, he buys two. That can be shoes, dresses or accessories. We also like catalog shopping for jewelry and

accessories, and evening dresses you don't see in the store. We love the Night and Day Intimates catalog. It's so convenient to have things delivered to your door.

On being 'women'

We are entertainers - we don't dress as women off stage. Look at us - we grow beards in between gigs! We don't do hormones or implants. There are some performers who live as women and like it. Nor are we political about drag. We're not trying to make a statement. We're doing it for the entertainment value.

On makeup

We don't use make up, we just roll on Dutch Boy Paints (laughter). We need heavy coverage for our beards on stage but we don't use the clown white that some use. Pan stick makeup combined with the right stage lighting does the trick. Other than that, we use foundation and great, fun colors. At home we keep everything in a metal box with little plastic drawers - the kind you might find in your garage. When we travel we use men's valet bags with lots of compartments, and we both carry our own - but identical - items. After our years of experience, we have been able to really simplify our

makeup and tools. The whole process takes us a few days..uh..hours (more laughter).

Special secrets

Make up is very expensive, and so are the tools. Camel hair brushes are the best for make up application, but the need to be cared for. We've found that washing them with woolite is the best. Oh - we also glue on heavy earrings with eyelash glue. It's much more comfortable that clipping them on or enduring the weight in your earlobes. Try it!

Pet peeves

The worst is getting the wigs to a show when we have to fly. They start out looking identical, but by the time we reach

our destination they look nothing alike! Wig boxes do not fit into overhead compartments on planes. we're not hairdressers like some other performers. And until we reach the point where we can travel with a stylist, we have to do the best we can. So, we use oversized shopping bags and slide them under the seat in front of us, and fluff them up when we get there.

continued on back page





....FOUR HOURS ON THIS DRAG, HONEY... I DON'T
GO HOME TIL EVERY QUEEN IN THIS CITY
HAS SEEN ME.

OUTSKIRTS

Okay. So we're all having fun giggling over drag names and the other outrageous stuff in Dragazine. That's great. That's why we, the publishers spend hours testing new nail colors just for you. But sometimes we just have to wax serious (all puns intended). And, so, we've allowed ourselves this little corner to get political and/or philosophical, depending on our mood. For instance, aren't you sick and tired of hearing that drag demeans women? Or that men who do drag have a desire to disempower themselves? We (your publishers) believe that the exact opposite is true. Donning women's attire allows us to tap-however briefly - into the wondrous power and mystery of womanhood. Who in drag has not experienced the exhilaration that comes with a compliment, an opened door, or the quick light of a cigarette? Yes, some may argue that these behaviors were instituted by men to control women, but isn't

it women who are really in control? Is it possible to be more powerful than when you have others doing things for you-simply because you want them to? Or, if you can manifest this behavior in others by wearing a certain perfume, stockings, makeup or some ancient headdress 10,000 years ago? Cheers to Madonna who was criticized for demeaning women in her new, very explicit video which features her as a sexual object. "I made the decisions to be in the situations you see me in. If you see me in chains, I put those chains on. Whether or not you can tell, I am totally in control."

Our thoughts exactly.



A TOUCH OF CLASS

"... success in business depends on 'intangibles' such as knowing which pitch of voice to use in particular moments, when and how to shake hands, and how to dress properly to be thought of as efficient, poised and professional..." (Promo for a seminar called "Developing Your Image as a Successful Woman.") This seminar also helps to take a sex role inventory of masculine and feminine traits to use them to your advantage. One satisfied graduate called it "very uplifting." Yawn. Wouldn't you rather spend the \$62.50 tuition on an "uplifting" visit to Lily St. Cyr's?

PREGNANT



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DEAR TATA

Tips & Advice on Tits & Ass

Dear TATA,

I did drag for the first time on Halloween. It was exhilarating! Now it's gotten to the point where I dress up wherever I can. I've been neglecting (or avoiding?) my friends and pursuing new friendships with transvestites and pre-ops. I'm even entertaining serious thoughts about implants and facial surgery. I'm a little confused about what it is I really want, and I'm afraid to talk to my friends. Help!

Signed, S.K. in Los Angeles

Dear S.K.,

There are several places to turn for guidance and information in Los Angeles. If you'd like a referral to one-on-one therapy or a physician, you may call the LGCSC at (213) 464-7400, ext. 220. (They will ask for your name in order to keep track of refer-

als, so be prepared.) The Gender Awareness League meets there every Wednesday evening. Call (805) 254-2818 for info. Also, The Pansocial Center provides a forum for individuals to meet with professional counselors and medical doctors, as well as workshops and social opportunities. Call (213) 873-3700 for details. These sources ought to be able to help you determine what it is you really want. Best of luck.

TATA SAYS:

It's happened to thousands of queens and has made their drag outing a miserable experience—don't let it happen to you! Before you dress, make sure you have nail polish remover, makeup remover, and flash camera with lots of film!

Write to TATA c/o DRAGAZINE, P.O. Box 3651, Hollywood, CA 90078.

Media Notes

By Bea Flat



Do you think they'll ever come out with Tootsie Part Two? Are you willing to sit through 'Bonfire of the Vanities' just because Tom Hanks was one of the 'bosoms' of Bosom Buddies? If questions like these pollute, er . . ., enter your brain, then it should come as no surprise that we at 'Zine' recommend the following Why-Is-Life-Worth-Living-and-If-I-Were-Stranded-On-A-Desert-Isle products, services, persons, places, animals, minerals, events, reading and viewing materials: The Ritz, Tootsie, Some Like It Hot, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Mildred Pierce, Mommy Dearest, The Women, Sin Bros., Chi Chi La Rue, Charles Pierce, Craig Russell, Jim Bailey, Jimmy James, Bosom Buddies reruns, Kenny Sacha, The Monroe Twins, Pearl, The Gay Deceivers, Longtime Companion, Divine, John Waters, Queenspeak, Twin Peaks DEA Agent Dennis AKA Denise Brison, Glen or Glenda, Lypsinka, Flip 'Geraldine' Wilson, Sybil Bruncheon, Frederick's Of Hollywood, Lily St. Cyr, The Powder Puffs, The Kosmetics, The Campers, The Troupers, The 40's, The 50's, The 60's, The 70's, Halloween!, The Cycle Sluts, Les Ballet Tocado, Finnochio's, The Queen Mary, Club 1970's, Toatsy Beige, Boylesque, La Cage A Follies, Victor/Victoria, Gypsy, Queer Nation,

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PUT DOWN YOU LIPSTICK AND PICK UP A PEN!

Dragazine is looking for contributors! We need:

- ✦ Entertainment reporters for New York, San Francisco, Denver and the Deep South.
 - ✦ A real cosmetologist to do make overs and write articles.
 - ✦ Your drag photos, and drag names to add to our growing list.
 - ✦ Your horrifying or hilarious personal experiences for DQ Confidential column.
 - ✦ Your letters to the editor (she's bored and very tired).
 - ✦ Your questions for TATA, our Tits & Ass advice column.
- Write to Dragazine, c/o P.O. Box 3651, Hollywood, CA 90078.

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MONROE TWINS *continued*

On their films

Our first film was Cold Dog Soup, which is still in the can. Then we did the film version of Joey Takes a Cab, adapted from the stage production we were in. We wore these hand beaded gowns with blue ostrich feathers and flawless crystal sets...If only they'd release these movies we might become a household name!

On Geraldo and Donahue

Geraldo was a lot more fun than Donahue. Donahue is a stuffed shirt. Our choreography was all wrong. Anyway, we had much more fun with the other guests on Geraldo, and we were able to slip in a few jokes. Our agent hasn't heard anything yet, but it was very important

national exposure for us. Someone somewhere might have seen us — For instance, Geraldo's people got us from Donahue. Wouldn't it be great to see us on Carson?

On the perfect vehicle

Joan Rivers — no — a sitcom where we would play pesty, nosey neighbors — or the long lost cousins of Peg Bundy on Married With Children, or Roseanne. No, the best vehicle would be a John Waters film. Absolutely. John Waters. Can you send him a copy of Dragazine?

Carson, Waters, Fox TV, et al, can book the Monroe Twins through the Mary Murphy Agency, 818-506-3874, in Van Nuys, California.



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